



Impact of Domestic Violence On Children

Impact on Children

Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. Children who live in a violent environment:

Know
Needs
Options
Warnings
Learn
Explore
Danger
Grieve
Empower

- Learn to accept violence as a way to resolve conflicts
- Learn to maintain control of others by using threats of violence
- Learn that loved ones have the right to hurt one another
- Often feel guilty for the violence between their parents
- Feel angry toward one or both parents
- Experience anxiety and fear
- Often "protect" the abuser in the face of outside intervention

Have sleep disturbances such as:

- Nightmares
- Bed wetting problems
- Insomnia

Have difficulties in school:

- Staying awake in class
- Concentrating on work
- Playing/interacting with peers
- Have poor appetites
- Often confuse love and violence
- Learn unhealthy sex-role stereotypes from parents
- Often times grow up to be abusers of their own mates or children; or become victims
- May use violence to problem-solve in school, with peers and with family
- Frequently maim or kill animals or hurt siblings

Children and the Cycle of Abuse

- Children are sometimes used as a weapon against the victim.
- Children can be accidentally injured when the batterer is assaulting the victim.
- Children may be used to interrogate the victim's activities.
- Children may be held hostage or abducted in efforts to punish or gain victim's compliance.

Information Taken from:

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<http://alternativestodv.org>